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March 30, 2011

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliot, III
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Suite 1220
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Chairman Elliot:

Please accept this letter from the Miami County Economic Development Authority as an indication of our support a strong freight railroad network, not only within the State of Indiana, the North Central Indiana Region but, across our great nation.

As America finally begins to pull itself out of the Great Recession, we do not need to reverse progress by damaging the ability of the rail industry to reinvest and continue to provide strong service.

We at the Miami County Economic Development Authority support a healthy freight rail network that encourages reinvestment by the rail industry, supports job growth and continued economic recovery. A strong rail network is critical to our local and region's economy which is heavily concentrated in manufacturing.

We oppose any policy or regulatory changes that would hinder the freight railroads' ability to continue investing billions of dollars annually in private capital to grow and modernize the nation's rail infrastructure. We respectfully request that no regulatory or policy changes be pursued at this time by the STB. We need to maintain the strong and well-balanced regulatory regime we have in place today.

Thank you for our consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Tidd", is written over the typed name and title.
James E. Tidd
Executive Director

Building the Future of Miami County